

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03422 130714Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OC-06 CCO-00
ST-01 /050 W

-----130715Z 093495 /11

P R 130633Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0409

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 3422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRALIA AIR CONTROLLERS STRIKE

REF: (A) CANBERRA 03388, (B) STATE 107853 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. AIR CONTROLLERS NOW VOTING ON PROPOSAL TO RESUME WORK AT
MIDNIGHT MAY 13. PARTIAL RESULTS POINT TO STRONG LIKELIHOOD
PROPOSAL WILL BE APPROVED.

2. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY HAS MADE VERBAL REPRESENTATIONS TO
BOTH SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PARKINSON AND ROWLAND,
FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, INTERNATIONAL POLICY, DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORT COVERING TWO POINTS LISTED PARA 3 OF CANBERRA
03388. IN PRACTICE, REPRESENTATIONS RESPECTING PASSENGER
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SELECTION FOR OUTBOUND FLIGHTS CAN ONLY BE FOR THE RECORD
AGAINST FUTURE EPISODES SINCE PROCESS NOW COMPLETE.
REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING PARTICIPATION BY FOREIGN FLAG
CARRIERS IN ANY ADDITIONAL SPECIAL FLIGHTS WILL BE
ACADEMIC IF CONTROLLERS RETURN TO WORK BUT WILL BE RELEVANT
IF STRIKE CONTINUES, AND ALSO IN EVENT FUTURE REPETITIONS.

3. SINCE SENDING CANBERRA 03388 WE HAVE OBTAINED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION OF INTEREST. (1) DECISION THAT QANTAS WOULD FLY ALL FOUR SPECIAL FLIGHTS FORCED BY AIR CONTROLLERS OVER STRONG EFFORT BY GOA TO PERMIT FOREIGN FLAG PARTICIPATION ON RECIPROCAL BASIS. ALTERNATIVE TO GOA ACCEPTANCE THIS CONDITION WAS NO SPECIAL FLIGHTS AT ALL. (2) GOA DIRECTIVE TO QANTAS RE SELECTION OUTBOUND PASSENGERS ON FOUR SPECIAL FLIGHTS PRESCRIBED VARIOUS PRIORITY CATEGORIES AND CONTEMPLATED THAT PRIORITY SYSTEM WOULD BE APPLIED ACROSS THE BOARD TO PASSENGERS HOLDING RESERVATIONS ON ALL INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS. THE FACTS RESPECTING HOW THE SELECTION WAS ACTUALLY MADE ARE STILL VERY CONFUSED BUT IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT THE DE FACTO OPERATION WAS LESS FAVORABLE TO FOREIGN FLAG CARRIERS THAN WE HOPED. IT ALSO SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT WITHIN THE FEW HOURS AVAILABLE, AND LACKING AN ADVANCE INVENTORY OF RESERVATION HOLDERS IN TERMS OF THE PRESCRIBED PRIORITY CATEGORIES, IT WAS NOT REALLY FEASIBLE TO PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY FASION. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT, AS SUGGESTED IN CANBERRA 03388 THERE WAS NO RESTRICTION TO AUSTRALIAN NATIONALS.

4. IN THE EVENT, WHICH WE HOPE AND BELIEVE IS UNLIKELY, THAT STRIKE CONTINUES BEYOND MIDNIGHT MAY 13 EMBASSY WILL RESUME EFFORTS IN COOPERATION WITH PAN AM TO PRESS FOR SPECIAL PERMISSION FOR PAN AM FLIGHTS TO MVE STRANDED PASSENGERS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS. IN SUCH AN EFFORT, WE MAY EXPECT FULL SUPPORT FROM THE GOA, BUT THE LATTER'S ABILITY TO OVERCOME OPPOSITION BY THE AIR CONTROLLERS UNION IS PROBLEMATICAL.

5. EMBASSY WILL REPORT OUTCOME OF CONTROLLERS VOTE AS SOON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS AVAILABLE. PERCIVAL

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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